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REMARKS

In the Non-Final Office Action of December 17, 2004, claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 19, and 20 are independent claims, which are herein amended. Claim 3 is herein canceled. Remaining claims 2 and 4-18 depend from claim 1. Applicants recognize the allowability of claims 9 and 12 if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim. However, Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is now allowable and thus claims 9 and 12 are also allowable as drafted. Arguments for the allowability of claim 1 are provided below.

Claims 1-8, 10, 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by Stam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,611,610).

Amended claim 1 recites a vehicle safety system that includes a light source. A beam-forming assembly is optically coupled to the light source. An object detection sensor detects an object and generates an object detection signal. A controller is coupled to the beam-forming assembly and the object detection sensor and adjusts the illumination output of the light source in response to the object detection signal. In adjusting the illumination output the controller adjusts an illumination parameter selected from one or more of beam pattern, beam location, beam focus, and beam angle.

The claimed system in adjusting one or more of the stated illumination parameters maximizes illumination forward of a host vehicle and minimizes interference to operators of nearby vehicles due to illumination generated by the light source. For example, the beam pattern of the light source may be adjusted such that there is minimal or no illumination directed at an oncoming vehicle, while providing an adequate or desired amount of illumination elsewhere.

Stam discloses a vehicle lamp control system. The system of Stam detects light directed at a host vehicle and in response thereto adjusts, with respect to host vehicle lamps, only the brightness of the lamps of the host vehicle. In Stam when the light emitted from an object is detected the system reduces the brightness of the headlamps or fog lamps. Although the system of Stam prevents

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the directing of a high illumination beam at an oncoming vehicle, Stam, as one example, does not prevent the directing of an illumination beam in its entirety at an object while still providing illumination elsewhere.

Applicants submit that Stam fails to teach or suggest adjusting beam pattern, beam location, beam focus, or beam angle in response to an object detection signal. Note that the beam patterns described, stored, and utilized in Stam are not the illumination beam patterns generated by a host vehicle lamp, but are rather the detected illumination patterns received from objects. There is a clear and distinct difference between received illumination patterns and emitted illumination patterns.

In order for a reference to anticipate a claim the reference must teach or suggest each and every element of that claim, see MPEP 2131 and *Verdegrad Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628. Thus, since Stam fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1, claim 1 is novel, nonobvious, and is in a condition for allowance. Also, since claims 2 and 4-18 depend from claim 1, they are also novel, nonobvious, and are in a condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

With respect to claims 19 and 20, note that the arguments within the Office Action, with respect to claims 1, 19, and 20, seem to be primarily directed to the elements of claim 1. No arguments are provided with respect to the recited limitations of generating communication signals or adjusting an illumination beam or an illumination output of a headlight in response thereto, as recited in claims 19 and 20.

Claim 19 recites a vehicle headlight system that includes a transceiver that generates a first communication signal. A receiver receives a second communication signal generated from an object in response to the first communication signal. A controller adjusts an illumination beam emitted from a light source in response to the second communication signal.

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Similarly, the method of claim 20 recites the limitations of detecting a communication signal generated from an object and adjusting illumination output of a vehicle headlight system in response to the communication signal.

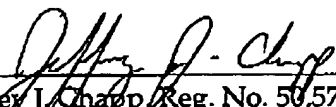
Applicants submit that Stam does not teach or suggest communication between objects or vehicles and thus does not disclose the generation of communication signals. Although the system of Stam may detect light emitted from an object, the system of Stam is not in communication with a detected object. The system of Stam does not include a transmitter or a receiver for communication with an object and thus does not generate or receive communication signals.

Thus, Stam fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 19 and 20, therefore, they are also novel, nonobvious, and are in a condition for allowance.

In light of the amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all the rejections are now overcome. The Applicants have added no new matter to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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